Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Discovery adds cable harness for external tank separation camera



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Aura launch delayed, MESSENGER on track for July 30 launch



▲ Shuttle Update: Return to Flight modifications are underway on Discovery, including the orbiter boom sensor system wiring and

preparations for installation of the wing leading-edge sensors. The External Tank separation camera cable harness is due to arrive at Kennedy Space Center this week.

Other work continues, including Orbital Maneuvering System pod thruster X-rays. One flex hose remains to be installed in the Environmental Control and Life Support System bay. Reinforced Carbon-Carbon panel installation is 50 percent complete on the right-hand side and 90 percent complete on the left-hand side.

On **Atlantis**, the nose cap is scheduled to be installed on the vehicle as soon as this week.

On **Endeavour**, electrical modifications continue in the crew module. Wire inspections are ongoing in the Environmental Control and Life Support System bay. The left-hand No. 3 and No. 4 radiators have been installed, with the No. 1 radiator scheduled for installation this week. All four right-hand radiators are installed. Tile bonds on the External Tank door and aft flex hose inspections continue.

▲ ELV Update: The launch of NASA's Aura spacecraft, the latest in the Earth Observing System (EOS) series, has been rescheduled for no earlier than July 8. During testing of the Delta II launch vehicle on the pad at Space Launch Complex 2 at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., a helium leak was observed in the second stage fuel tank shutoff valve. It must be removed and replaced. The associated retesting will be complete today.

On MESSENGER, the solar arrays will be installed June 21, followed by release tests on June 23 – 24. Spacecraft propellant loading is scheduled for June 28 – July 2. Spacecraft spin balance testing is planned for July 7 and mating to the upper stage booster will occur July 12. The spacecraft will leave Astrotech for Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on July 16 and be mated to the Delta II rocket at Pad 17-B. Meanwhile, stacking of the launch vehicle on the pad is currently planned to begin on June 23.

◆ NASA Science News — By inter-



facing bacteria to silicon chips, NASA-supported researchers have created a device that can sense almost anything. The tech-

nology has applications in space travel, for homeland security, medi-

cine and environmental clean-up. Read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/10jun bbics.htm.

- ◆ Blood Drive Today the American Red Cross will be accepting donations on Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Headquarters Building Lobby. Walk-ins are welcome. Donors will receive a "Two for One" Carnival Cruise Lines certificate plus a Chic-fil-A sandwich coupon.
- ◆ Reminder June's cardiovascular disease (CVD) screening is being held 7 to 8 a.m. tomorrow at the OHF (Occupational Health Facility), and 7 to 8 a.m. Thursday at the LAC (Launch Area Clinic MFF). No appointment is necessary. Fasting is required for 12 hours (water only). The new 2-page CVD questionnaire can be picked up at any medical facility or downloaded from the SGS home page/forms at:

http://kscbocforms/KSCForms2/ref/KSC28-1010.itr.

◆ Did You Know? Now that hurricane season is here, you might be curious where Hugo, Fran, or even Dot made landfall. You can find all that and more at the NOAA Web site: http://hurricane.csc.noaa.gov/hurricanes/index.htm.